

## REMARKS

Entry of this amendment without withdrawing this application from allowance is respectively requested.

Claims 106 and 121 have been amended to recite a  $T_{max}$  of “between about 3.1 hours to about 10.0 hours after said tablet is placed in the vagina.” This claim limitation is supported at Table II, which appears at page 12, lines 23 to 29 of the specification, and at Table V, which appears at page 15, lines 6 to 10 of the specification.<sup>1</sup>

Claims 124 (depending from claim 52, which does not recite a  $T_{\max}$ ), which recites a  $T_{\max}$  of “between about 3.1 hours to about 10.0 hours after said tablet is placed in the vagina” and 125 (depending from claim 124), which recites a  $T_{\max}$  of “between about 3.8 hours to about 8.7 hours after said tablet is placed in the vagina,” have been added for the sake of accuracy and completeness. Support for these amendments can be found at Table II, which appears at page 12, lines 23 to 29 of the specification, and at Table V, which appears at page 15, lines 6 to 10 of the specification.

The term “diluent” has been eliminated from the claims. It is noted that diluents are generally classified as excipients. According to Stedman’s Medical Dictionary (26<sup>th</sup> Edition, 1995), excipients are “more or less inert substance[s] added in a prescription as a diluent or vehicle or to give form or consistency ....” (p. 608; a copy of which is attached hereto). Accordingly, and in an effort to avoid redundancy in the claims, the term “or diluent” has been deleted from claims 52, 106, and 129.

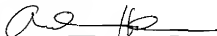
In addition, we have cancelled claim 113 because it recites the same subject matter as the claim from which it depends (claim 53), and we have amended claim 123 to correct the spelling of the word “anhydrous”.

<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of citing passages from the instant specification, we have used page and line numbers from International Publication WO 00/28970 throughout this Amendment.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Dated: March 28, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Andrew K. Holmes, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 51,813

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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to a day after the fever has subsided. *syn* pseudorubella, roseola infantilis, roseola infantum, sixth disease.

**vesicular e.**, an extinct disease of swine caused by vesicular e. virus of swine, a member of the family Caliciviridae; it closely resembled foot-and-mouth disease and, in swine, was characterized by fever, loss of weight, and vesicles on the snout, tongue, and feet.

**ex-an-them-a-tous** (eg-zan-them'ā-tūs). Relating to an exanthema.

**ex-an-the-sis** (eg-zan-thé'sis). 1. A rash or exanthema. 2. The coming out of a rash or eruption. [G] *e. arthrosia*, *syn* dengue.

**ex-an-thrope** (ek-zan-thrōp). An external cause of disease, one not originating in the body. [G] *ex. out of, + anthrōpos*, man]

**ex-an-throp-ic** (ek-zan-thrōp'ik). Originating outside of the human body.

**ex-ar-te-ri-tis** (eks-ar-ter'itis). *syn* periarteritis.

**ex-ar-tic-u-la-tion** (eks-ar-tik-yū-lā'shūn). *syn* disarticulation. [L] *ex. out, + articulus*, joint]

**ex-cal-a-tion** (eks-kā-lā'shūn). Absence, suppression, or failure of development of one of a series of structures, as of a digit or vertebra. [G] *ex. from, + calatō*, to abate, release]

**ex-ca-va-tio** (eks-kā-vā'shō-gō) [NA]. *syn* excavation (1). [L] *fr. ex-cavo*, pp. *-cavatus*, to hollow out, *fr. ex. out, + cavus*, hollow]

*e. dis'ci* [NA]. *syn* excavation of optic disc.

*e. papil'lar*, *syn* excavation of optic disc.

*e. rectouter'i'na* [NA]. *syn* rectouterine pouch.

*e. rectovesical'is* [NA]. *syn* rectovesical pouch.

*e. vesicouter'i'na* [NA]. *syn* uterovesical pouch.

**ex-ca-va-tion** (eks-kā-vā'shūn). 1. A natural cavity, pouch, or recess. *syn* excavatio [NA]. 2. A cavity formed artificially or as the result of a pathologic process.

**atrophic e.**, an exaggeration of the normal or physiologic cupping of the optic disc caused by atrophy of the optic nerve.

**glaucomatous e.**, *syn* glaucomatous cup.

*e. of* optic disc, the normally occurring depression or pit in the center of the optic disc. *syn* excavatio disci [NA], depression of optic disc, excavatio papillae, physiologic cup, physiologic e.

**physiologic e.**, *syn* e. of optic disc.

**ex-ca-va-tor** (eks-kā-vā-tōr, -tōr). 1. An instrument like a large sharp spoon or scoop, used in separating out pathologic tissue. 2. In dentistry, an instrument, generally a small spoon or curette, for cleaning out and shaping a carious cavity preparatory to filling.

**hatchet e.**, *see* hatchet.

**hoe e.**, a single-beveled dental e., with the blade at an angle to the axis of the handle and the cutting edge perpendicular to the plane of the angle.

**ex-ce-men-to-sis** (ek'sē-men-tō'sis). A nodular outgrowth of cementum on the root surface of a tooth.

**ex-cen-tric** (ek-sen'trik). Alternative spelling for eccentric (2, 3).

**ex-cess** (ek'sēs). That which is more than the usual or specified amount.

**antibody e.**, in a precipitation test, the presence of antibody in an amount greater than that required to combine with all of the antigen present.

**antigen e.**, (1) in a precipitation test, the presence of uncombined antigen above that required to combine with all of the antibody; precipitation may be inhibited because the presence of excess antigen gives rise to soluble antigen-antibody complexes; (2) *in vivo* the resultant antigen-antibody interaction in such an antigen e. may give rise to immune complexes, which have a potential to induce cellular damage; such injury underlies the pathologic changes seen in certain immune complex diseases.

**base e.**, a measure of metabolic alkalosis, usually predicted from the Siggaard-Andersen nomogram; the amount of strong acid that would have to be added per unit volume of whole blood to titrate it to pH 7.4 while at 37°C and at a carbon dioxide pressure of 40 mm Hg.

**convergence e.**, that condition in which an esophoria or esotropia is greater for near vision than for far vision.

**negative base e.**, a measure of metabolic acidosis, usually predicted from the Siggaard-Andersen nomogram; the amount of strong alkali that would have to be added per unit volume of whole blood to titrate it to pH 7.4 while at 37°C and at a carbon dioxide pressure of 40 mm Hg.

**ex-change** (eks-chān'). To substitute one thing for another, or the act of such substitution.

**sister chromatid e.**, the e. during mitosis of homologous genetic material between sister chromatids; increased as a result of inordinate chromosomal fragility due to genetic or environmental factors. *see* recombination.

**ex-cip-i-ent** (eks-sip'ē-ent). A more or less inert substance added in a prescription as a diluent or vehicle or to give form or consistency when the remedy is given in pill form; *e.g.*, simple syrup, aromatic powder, honey, and various elixirs. [L] *ex-cipiens*; pres. p. of *ex-cipio*, to take out]

**excise** (eks-siz'). To cut out. *see* also RESECT.

**ex-cision** (eks-siz'hūn). 1. The act of cutting out; the surgical removal of part or all of a structure or organ. *syn* resection (2). *see* also RESECTION. 2. In molecular biology, a recombination event in which a genetic element is removed. *syn* excision. [L] *excido*, to cut out]

**loop e.**, a diagnostic and therapeutic gynecological surgical technique for removing dysplastic cells from the cervix. *syn* loop resection.

In this office procedure conducted with the aid of colposcopy, a small wire loop is used to excise visible patches of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. Like cauterization, cryosurgery, and CO<sub>2</sub> laser procedures, loop excision can be done with local anesthetic, and is an uncomplicated, relatively inexpensive way of removing dysplastic cells; in addition, it provides material for biopsy. It is not advised for cases of severe dysplasia or carcinoma *in situ*, which are better addressed by cervical conization, an inpatient procedure.

**ex-cit-a-bil-i-ty** (eks-sit'ā-bil'ē-tē). Having the capability of being excitable.

**supranormal e.**, at the end of phase three of the cardiac action potential, the successful stimulation threshold falls below (*i.e.*, less negative than) the level necessary to produce excitation during the rest of the phase of diastole, so that an ordinary subthreshold stimulus becomes effective. *cf.* supranormal conduction.

**ex-cit-a-ble** (eks-sit'ā-bil). 1. Capable of quick response to a stimulus; having potentiality for emotional arousal. *cf.* irritable. 2. In neurophysiology, referring to a tissue, cell, or membrane capable of undergoing excitation in response to an adequate stimulus.

**ex-cit-ant** (eks-sit'ānt). *syn* stimulant. [L] *excito*, pp. *-atus*, pres. p. *-ans*, to arouse]

**ex-ci-ta-tion** (eks-sit'ā'shūn). 1. The act of increasing the rapidity or intensity of the physical or mental processes. 2. In neurophysiology, the complete all-or-none response of a nerve or muscle to an adequate stimulus, ordinarily including propagation of e. along the membranes of the cell or cells involved. *see* also stimulation.

**anomalous atrioventricular e.**, ectopic atrial beat conducted to the ventricle.

**ventricular pre-e.**, *see* Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome.

**ex-cit-a-to-ry** (eks-sit'ā-tō-rē). Tending to produce excitation.

**ex-cite-ment** (eks-sit'mēt). An emotional state sometimes characterized by its potential for impulsive or poorly controlled activity.

**catatonic e.**, an excited catatonic state seen in one of the schizophrenic disorders. *see* catatonia.

**manic e.**, an excited mental state seen in a bipolar (manic-depressive) disorder characterized by hyperactivity, talkativeness, flight of ideas, pressured speech, grandiosity, and, occasionally, grandiose delusions. *see* mania, manic-depressive. *syn* acute mania.